

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 02/04853

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G12B21/00 G12B21/02 G01B7/34		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G12B G01B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00 19494 A (XIDEX CORP) 6 April 2000 (2000-04-06) page 4, line 10 - line 16 page 4, line 20 - line 25 page 4, line 29 - page 5, line 7 page 9, line 19 - page 10, line 6 page 10, line 12 - line 14 claims 1,25,56 figures 2A-2E,3A-3D	26-30
Y A	--- -/--	31 1-25
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. </div>		
* Special categories of cited documents :		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>*&* document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">17 February 2003</div>		Date of mailing of the international search report <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">26/02/2003</div>
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Grand, J-Y</div>

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>VETTIGER P ET AL: "The Millipede-more than one thousand tips for future AFM data storage"</p> <p>IBM JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, IBM CORPORATION, ARMONK, US, vol. 44, no. 3, May 2000 (2000-05), pages 323-340, XP002194187</p> <p>ISSN: 0018-8646</p> <p>cited in the application</p> <p>the whole document</p>	31
A	<p>US 5 773 921 A (GROSSE-WILDE HUBERT ET AL) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30)</p> <p>column 5, line 20 -column 6, line 6</p> <p>figures 1-4</p>	1-25

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patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0019494	A	06-04-2000	AU 6267299 A	17-04-2000
			EP 1135792 A1	26-09-2001
			JP 2002526354 T	20-08-2002
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